



Experimentally Speaking...

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Message from the President



Eric N. Brown, SEM President, 2021-2022

IT WAS MY DISTINCT pleasure and honor to spend the week of February 7 at IMAC-XL in Orlando, Florida as part of my tenure as SEM President. It was wonderful to be back in person, and as the friendly society to be surrounded by so many friends and colleagues. SEM staff, the IMAC Advisory Board, and indeed every person who attended made it a tremendously successful and rewarding conference. Among the many rewarding and enriching activities of the week beyond getting to see technical talks in person, I was inspired by many conversations with our students and early career members, observing an early career panel discussion, and getting to introduce two new SEM fellows at the Conference lunch banquet. I would like to thank everyone who attended IMAC—with a special thanks to our exhibitors—who stuck with us through the pandemic and returned in person this year. While the past two years of virtual meetings and conferences have touched all of us personally and professionally in many ways, getting back together in person reminded me of how strong we are together as a community and have me looking forward to our society's future ahead. I am truly looking forward to this summer's SEM Annual conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I look forward to seeing many of you there and discussing in person the work you've accomplished over the past two years.

[website](#). There you will find descriptions of the many awards, lists of all the award's past recipients, and instructions on how to nominate your deserving colleagues for these awards. I am always amazed and humbled as I read both about the people who our awards are named in honor of and the many people who have received our awards over the years. As you read about these awards, I sincerely hope you will be inspired to consider your deserving colleagues whose achievements and contributions align with the varied technical, teaching, application, and service aspects of our awards. I deeply encourage you to go a step further and nominate your colleagues for SEM awards. While selection is very competitive, one outcome is certain: anyone who is not nominated is guaranteed to not be selected no matter how deserving. If you have questions about the nomination process or the specifics of a given award please reach out to Nuno Lopes-SEM Managing Director, Kristin Zimmerman-SEM Executive Director, or myself. I would also like to challenge those of you who are active in our many Technical Divisions or are in TD leadership roles to consider those deserving people within your technical division and ensure they are nominated. The nominations for the vast majority of awards are due April 15th with a simplified online process. We seek a deep, diverse, and inclusive set of nomination packages for each of the SEM awards and honors for consideration by the Honors and Fellows committees.

See you at SEM Annual in Pittsburgh. ■

Eric N. Brown
SEM President

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As a society with so many amazing and deserving members, we are fortunate to have many opportunities to acknowledge and award our diverse membership throughout the many stages of their careers. I would like to encourage all of you to peruse the awards section of the [SEM](#)

From the Directors

WITH THIS MESSAGE, we would like to highlight the outcomes from our IMAC-XL conference.

IMAC was held in-person at the Rosen Plaza, Orlando, Florida this year (February 7-10, 2022). It was our first in-person conference since IMAC-XXXVII in 2020 in Houston, TX. The conference was about half the size in terms of the number of on-site attendees, but the energy and camaraderie was wonderful to see. So many conference participants mentioned how wonderful it felt to be back together. We were so pleased to have 23 exhibitors with us with 4 new exhibitors joining the IMAC family. Many of the exhibitors spoke with Jen about returning next year to IMAC in Austin, TX. We are thrilled to hear this! Attendance totaled about 382, with ~225 attending in person, 125 first timers and 152 students.

The technical program was very strong with 359 papers in the final program. Because of the uncertainty of COVID's impact on travel, we decided to host three concurrent virtual sessions following the Conference on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Approximately 70 authors that were unable to travel had the opportunity to introduce their pre-recorded presentations, available on Whova, and answer questions. We have our IMAC Advisory Board, our Program Planning Committee, our session organizers and Technical Division chairs to thank for putting together an outstanding program. We are clearly doing some things right in terms of our conferences and we want to continue to enable emerging Technical Divisions (TDs) to blossom and grow. This year our new TD, Dynamic Environments Testing, chaired by Julie Harvie, programmed five sessions and requested to do the same in 2023 with the addition of a short course.

As part of our technical program, we offered two courses. On Saturday, we held the course titled, MDOF Laboratory Vibration to Simulate the Field Response - Principles Derived from Impedance Matched Multi-



SEM President Eric N. Brown and IMAC Conference Director David Epp walk the exhibit hall floor and speak with exhibitors.

Axis Testing (IMMAT): with instructors, Randy Mayes - Retired Sandia National Laboratories, Ryan Schultz - Sandia National Laboratories and Dan Rohe - Sandia National Laboratories. On Sunday, we held the course titled, Optical Techniques for Experimental Modal Analysis: with instructors: Dan Rohe - Sandia National Laboratories, Bryan Witt - Sandia National Laboratories and Phil Reu - Sandia National Laboratories. Attendance totaled 21, for both courses.

We will be publishing nine volumes of proceedings with our publisher Springer Nature, representing conference sessions and tracks from the IMAC-XL technical program, which will be available in mid-summer.

The work done by our Technical Program organizers, TD Chairs, Track Chairs, and Session Chairs, coordinated by the tireless work by our SEM staff, is responsible for creating outstanding programs that continue to bring in large numbers of conference participation. We, however, need to stay agile and very aware of the emerging areas that we should include in our programs. Our conference success rests

on the success of the technical program and its ability to attract both existing conference contributors, and new ones.

Our three Journals also met with our Springer Nature representative by Zoom during the conference. We take the opportunity, during both IMAC and Annual, to engage in discussions with Springer Nature on current issues needing attention and how best to support the strategic directions for each journal.

We continue to discuss the lack of interest in IMAC attendees publishing in SEM's journals. The journal that looks to be the best fit for the IMAC community is Experimental Techniques, which updated its aims and scope in order to recruit IMAC papers including a special IMAC issue. President, Eric Brown, spoke at the TD luncheon to invite attendees to submit papers, based on research being presented at the conference, to one of SEM's peer reviewed journals. Please [visit the website](#) to learn more. We need to provide our SEM/IMAC members a journal to publish their work. We think we have made significant progress in enabling our IMAC community to publish with SEM.

The SEM Handbook of Experimental Structural Dynamics, with Pete Avitabile and Randy Allemang as co-editors, is available online at www.amazon.com/Handbook-Experimental-Structural-Dynamics-Allemang/dp/1461445469. You can preorder a hardcopy from Amazon starting now, with availability scheduled for April 2022.

Our Annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA is ramping up nicely. We have over 480 abstracts received with papers being programmed into 11 tracks with three symposia and two panels over four days that are sure to make our in-person 2022 Annual conference a success. Please visit the SEM website to learn more.

SEM is defined by its ability to remain agile, focused and open to all experimental

mechanicians who enjoy and use our conference environment as the go-to place to learn and grow as experts in their field of study. Our relatively small conference size enables our agility...allowing us to keep our finger on the pulse of what is next, create a conference track to represent an emerging area of interest, and carve out our niche in that new area...a niche that sends the message to our meeting participants that SEM's IMAC, Annual and Fall conferences are the ones to attend. This, we believe, is one of the keys to what defines us and gives strength to the meaning of the "friendly society."

We look forward to your questions or comments so please don't hesitate to email or call.

To those of you that attended IMAC-XL, we want to personally thank you for a successful conference. And we look forward to seeing you in Austin, TX, in 2023. We guarantee another exciting conference as we celebrate IMAC-XLI.

To those planning on attending the Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA in June, we look forward to seeing you, engaging with you and we invite you, as you register for the conference, to either renew your membership or become a new member of SEM! ■

Kristin Zimmerman, Executive Director
Nuno Lopes, Managing Director

Member News



Tribute to Charles Edwin Taylor (1924–2017)

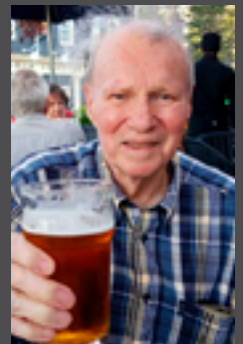
THREE SEM MEMBERS, Michael A. Sutton, James W. Phillips and Nancy R. Sottos wrote a tribute to the legacy of Charles "Chuck" Taylor for the National Academy of Engineering highlighting his pioneering work, research, contributions and impact on others.

Read the full tribute by downloading the PDF [here](#). ■

Remembering Richard 'Dick' Henry Homewood (1927-2022)

LONGTIME SEM member, Richard Homewood passed away at his home on Friday, January 7, 2022. He was 94 years old.

Richard was a U.S. Navy veteran and civil engineer. He was a member of the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis (SESA), now SEM, for over 30 years and served as Treasurer from 1970 to 1981.



To read the full memorial, please [click here](#). ■

IMAC-XL - The Live Event Return!

February 7-10, 2022 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, FL

Awards and Highlights from our 2022 IMAC

IMAC-XL was our first return to in-person meetings in two years. We can attribute a strong program to the hard work put in by the organizers, chairs, technical divisions and membership.

We would like to thank all the attendees and exhibitors that participated making this return a successful one under the current environment. We look forward to seeing you in 2023. ■



Above (clockwise): D. J. DeMichele Awardee--Matt Allen with wife, Melissa; SAGE Publishing Young Engineer Lecturer--Javad Baqersad during his presentation and with IMAC Conference Director--David Epp

Opposite page (top to bottom/left to right): SEM Fellow inductee--Peter Avitabile with UMASS Lowell colleagues and students; SEM Fellow inductee--Randy Mayes with wife, Alycin; SEM President--Eric Brown with 2021 D. J. DeMichele Awardee--Jason Blough and IMAC Conference Director--David Epp; SEM President--Eric Brown with Data Science Technical Division Best Paper Winner--Amir Gandomi; Dynamics of Civil Structures Technical Division Best Paper Winner--Omar Abuodeh with IMAC Conference Director--David Epp; SEM President--Eric Brown with Dynamic Environments Testing Technical Division Best Paper Winner--Ryan Schultz; Model Validation & Uncertainty Quantification Technical Division Best Paper Winner--Daniel Kammer with IMAC Conference Director--David Epp



WFLA IMAC

MOMENTS

ORLANDO, FL | FEBRUARY 2022





See You Next
Year at **IMAC-XLI**
in Austin, TX!

Upcoming Events

2022

2022 SEM Annual Conference | June 13-16, 2022

Omni William Penn Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA US

iDICs 2022 Conference and Workshop | November 7-10, 2022

Revere Hotel Boston Common

Boston, MA USA

2023

IMAC-XLI | February 13-16, 2023

Renaissance Austin Hotel

Austin, TX USA

2023 SEM Annual Conference | June 12-15, 2023

Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

Albuquerque, NM USA



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

IMAC-XLI



FEBRUARY 13-16, 2023 | RENAISSANCE AUSTIN HOTEL | AUSTIN, TX