



# Experimentally Speaking...

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## Message from the President



Jason R. Blough, SEM President, 2024-2025

I AM BOTH EXCITED AND humbled to start my term as the 2024-2025 President of the Society for Experimental Mechanics. I would like to thank the outgoing President, Raman Singh, for his time and efforts as President, Thank you Raman! I would also like to thank the efforts of the other SEM Board members and especially our Treasurer, who has also had several other past appointments, Kristin Zimmerman and before her, Jon Rogers. The efforts of both Kristin and Jon over many years have put the society in a very strong and enviable place financially, we are very lucky to be in this position. Our financial position is strong enough that we have the luxury at this time to consider ways in which we can improve and enhance the society and our activities by “giving back” to our members and participants.

Of course, the success of the society is also largely due to the SEM staff who deserve our recognition and thank you as well as they work hard to support the society in all aspects. The staff organizes conferences, manages the journal publication process, manages membership, and supports social media and other activities. Please thank them when you see them!

The society is coming off of another great year of two conferences with strong attendance and a solid year of journal publications. However, as we look forward we should be cognizant that to maintain strong conference attendance we need to keep our technical content relevant and cutting edge, this is a job for everyone involved in the conferences and I value your input and contributions on this. We also need to work to increase the backlogs of articles for our journals as they are not as large as we would like and are another significant source

**“As a society we should be stronger—the closer we can work together the better, as both groups have strengths and experiences which should benefit the other.”**

of income for the society, again everyone can assist with this by submitting papers to our journals. We have not seen the number of members in the society grow in recent years, this is concerning as to stay a vibrant society we need participation in the society. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one. I hope that I can count on everyone to help the society stay financially sound by helping with relevant conference planning and participation and submitting their papers to our journals as well as considering becoming a society member if you are not currently.

I am also a firm believer that we as a society should come closer together, we have essentially two different cohorts, IMAC and the Annual conference attendees. As a society we should be stronger—the closer we can work together the better, as both groups have strengths and experiences which should benefit the other. I hope to

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the President
- 3 Message from the Director
- 4 2024 SEM Annual Conference: Awards and Accolades
- 6 2024 SEM Annual Conference: Moments
- 8 Member Spotlight: Isabella Mendoza
- 9 Upcoming Events

# Message from the President continued from page 1

see increased collaboration between several of our committees to improve both groups experiences and primary conferences.

I hope to make progress on several initiatives during my year of service as the President of the society. These initiatives are discussed here, realizing that several of these initiatives may take more than a year to accomplish but I think are worth either starting or continuing.

## Initiatives:

**1.** Develop an understanding of what the SEM conference of the future looks like. Finding conference venues has become a major challenge for the SEM staff due to the size of our conferences. We are not big enough for many convention centers and yet too large for most hotel venues. Keeping costs affordable has always been difficult and is getting more so. At this point, the society and conference organizers need to understand what a future conference should look like to allow more flexibility in conference planning. These decisions should be driven by the desires of the conference attendees, so don't be surprised to see a survey at some point. We want to serve the membership and attendees better, this may mean some increase in costs to the society which may mean an increase in conference attendance cost, hopefully we can find a way to offset the value of these costs with some additional conference perks such as more social events or meals included. We need to work find a sweet spot of cost verses benefit that works for our groups.

**2.** As mentioned above, the membership of the society has not grown, and in fact has dropped over the years. I will work with Nuno and the other SEM staff to understand more about our current members through the newly implemented database of member and conference attendee characteristics. We will be looking for ways to understand this data and develop an approach to enhance both benefits members find important as well as how to grow the society membership. We should understand and develop ideas on how to

support student members who wish to transition to full members, we need young members and students who are already participating should be low hanging fruit. Growing and improving the membership experience will strengthen the society by ensure its bright future.

I urge you to become more involved in SEM. Recruit new members, advise students, become active in the Focus Groups, Technical Divisions, and Committees or be an author or reviewer for an SEM journal. There are many ways to contribute to and support the society and we need all the help we can get! Please volunteer, you will find it rewarding.

Moving forward I am excited to help lead the continued success of SEM and to serve both the IMAC and Annual Conference attendees to improve the conference experiences and the member benefits. See you at both the IMAC and Annual conferences.

I make the following appointments to the SEM Executive Board for the 2024-2025 year. I thank each of these individuals for volunteering their time to help run the business of the society while they serve.

- **Nuno Lopes**, as Secretary
- **Kristin Zimmerman**, as Treasurer
- **Junlan Wang**, President Elect, as Chair of the Technical Advisory Council
- **Sez Atamturktur Russcher**, Vice President, as Chair of National Meetings Council
- **Raman Singh**, Immediate Past President, as Chair of Administrative Council
- **Jim De Clerck**, Past President, as Chair of Editorial Council



*SEM President Jason Blough at the 2024 SEM Annual Conference in Vancouver, WA with Randy and Jane Allemang and SEM past president Jim De Clerck.*

- **Garrison Flynn** (IMAC), At-Large Board Member, as Executive Board Representative to IMAC Advisory Board
- **Anders Brandt** (IMAC), At-Large Board Member as Vice-Chair of the Research Committee
- **Meredith Silberstein**, At-Large Board Member as Vice-Chair of Administrative Council
- **Rachael Tighe**, At-Large Board Member as Vice Chair of Editorial Council
- **Martha Grady**, At-Large Board Member as Vice Chair of the Education Committee
- **Sharlotte Kramer**, At-Large Board Member as Vice Chair of National Meetings Council
- **Hae Young Noh**, At-Large Board Member as Vice Chair of Technical Activities Council
- **Maarten van der Seijs**, At-Large Board Member as Vice Chair of the Applications Committee

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**Jason Blough**  
SEM President 2024-2025 ■

# Message from the Director

OUR CONFERENCES BRING together minds, ideas, and innovations. Recently, I had the privilege of being part of organizing the 2024 SEM Annual conference that not only met but exceeded all expectations. I am filled with gratitude for the staff, members and volunteers who made it all possible.

If conference's success is measured by the quality of its content, then I would say the more than 300 presenters of 350+ papers made Annual a resounding success. Sessions at Annual covered a wide range of topics including the 14th International Symposium on the Mechanics of Biological Systems & Materials, the 25th International Symposium on Micro- and Nanomechanics (ISMAN), 10th International Symposium on the Mechanics of Composite and Multifunctional Materials, Additive and Advanced Manufacturing, Advancement of Optical Methods in Experimental Mechanics, Applications/Challenges in Industry, Dynamic Behavior of

Materials, Education, Fracture and Fatigue, Inverse Methods and Machine Learning, Research, Residual Stress, Thermomechanics and Infrared Imaging, Time-Dependent Materials, and the Michael Sutton International Student Paper Competition. In addition to this plethora of topics, the Springer Nature Young Investigator Lecture given by Allison Beese on the "Mechanics of Additively Manufactured Metals" and the prestigious William M. Murray Lecture by Ghatu Subhash on "Riding the Waves for Design of Innovative Experiments and Probing Material Behavior" provided attendees with insights from experts.

The content can't stand alone, no conference can succeed without the support of dedicated volunteers. Annual was no exception. The work and commitment of all of you is what carries us forward and continues to provide attendees with a great experience. I am amazed with gratitude for the members, organizers, session chairs and

all those who made Annual possible. Each individual, whether a speaker, attendee, volunteer, or organizer, played a crucial role in creating an unforgettable experience.

To our speakers, thank you for sharing your expertise and insights. Your contributions and your willingness to engage made a lasting impact.

To our attendees, thank you for your active participation and enthusiasm. Your presence and engagement brought the conference to life, and your feedback will help us continue to improve in the future.

To staff, thank you for your hard work and dedication to SEM and your commitment to ensuring our conferences continue to provide a fertile ground for the collaboration of mechanical engineers.

**Nuno Lopes | Executive Director** ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

# IMAC-XLIII



FEBRUARY 10-13, 2025 | ROSEN PLAZA HOTEL | ORLANDO, FL



# 2024 SEM Annual: Awards and Accolades

June 3-6, 2024 at the Hilton Vancouver Washington, Vancouver, WA

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS our gratitude to all of the attendees, organizers, chairs and exhibitors who helped make this another successful annual. SEM is able to maintain its commitment to offering a stimulating environment for the exchange of research and ideas because of their diligence and hard work.

We hope to see you in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in June 2025. ■



Above: J. W. Dally Young Investigator Awardee—Martha Grady with SEM President—Raman Singh



Top-Right: Michael Sutton International Student Paper Competition participants  
Middle-Right (left to right): M. Hetényi Awardee—J.C. Stinville with Raman Singh;  
M. M. Frocht Awardee—Michael Keller



Bottom-Right (left to right): C. E. Taylor Awardee—Hugh Brock; SEM Fellow Awardee—Cosme Furlong-Vazquez with Raman Singh

Opposite page (top row/left to right): William M. Murray Medal Lecturer—Ghatu Subhash with Raman Singh; B. J. Lazan Awardee—Hongbing Lu with Raman Singh



Opposite page (middle row/left to right): Best Paper: Dynamic Behavior of Materials winner—Joseph Dinotte with Raman Singh; R. E. Peterson Awardee—Emily L. Retzlaff with Raman Singh; F. G. Tatnall Awardee—Wendy C. Crone with Raman Singh



Opposite page (bottom row/left to right): Michael Sutton International Student Paper Competition winners—Larissa Kopf (1st Place), Barry Lawlor (2nd Place), Ellen van Wijngaarden (3rd Place) with Michael Sutton and Raman Singh; Springer/Nature Publishing Young Investigator Lecturer—Allison Beese with Raman Singh





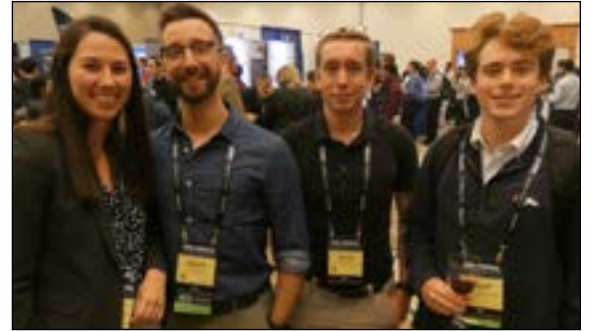
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ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

# MOMENTS

VANCOUVER, WA | JUNE 2024







See You Next Year at  
**2025 SEM Annual**  
in Milwaukee, WI!

# Isabella Mendoza

MatchID US Inc.

**SEM Member Since 2020**

## WHY DID YOU JOIN SEM?

I first joined SEM thanks to my research advisor, Leslie Lamberson. However, as I got more and more involved with the society, I truly felt like I had found a place where I belonged.

## WHAT INTERESTING RESEARCH/PROJECTS ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON?

I work on a lot of different applications using digital image correlation (DIC). While I no longer pursue my own individual research projects, I consult on several projects involving DIC. From low-speed tests to high-speed imaging, quasi-static and dynamic strain rates, and inverse material identification methods, my employer gives me the opportunity to push the boundaries of current DIC techniques. Before my current position, my dissertation focused on impact fatigue damage in CFRP.

## BRIEF BACKGROUND

I started college as an international student from the Philippines, where I completed my BS in Materials Science & Engineering with minors in Business Administration and Legal Studies at Drexel University. There, I met Prof. Leslie Lamberson, who introduced me to the field of experimental mechanics. Fascinated by the field, I followed her to Colorado School of Mines, where I completed my PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Since then, I have been employed by MatchID, a DIC software developer. ■



## FUN FACT:

I used to be a semi-professional tennis player and played in 7 countries!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**2025 SEM ANNUAL**



JUNE 2–5, 2025 | HYATT REGENCY MILWAUKEE | MILWAUKEE, WI



# Upcoming Events

## 2024

**PhotoMechanics - iDICs 2024** | October 29–31, 2026

UCA - School of Management  
Clermont-Ferrand, France

## 2025

**IMAC-XLIII** | February 10–13, 2025

Rosen Plaza Hotel  
Orlando, FL, USA

**2025 SEM Annual Conference** | June 2–5, 2025

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee  
Milwaukee, WI, USA

## 2026

**IMAC-XLIV** | January 19–22, 2026

Margaritaville Resort  
Palm Springs, CA, USA

