

Editorial

Dedicated to the Memory of Walter D. Pilkey, Founding Editor, who passed away on August 27, 2007.

We are proud to present the 15th volume of *Shock and Vibration*.

The journal was originally conceived in 1993 to serve the shock and vibration community defined by the Shock and Vibration Information Center, which has held annual symposiums on the topic since 1947. This organization has evolved into the current Shock and Vibration Information Analysis Center (SAVIAC) which functions as an organization under the support of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi (see www.saviac.org for details). A main function of SAVIAC is to run the Annual Shock and Vibration symposium, usually held in October of each year and now approaching its 79th meeting. Out of these meetings grew the need for this journal. However, the journal runs independently of the conference but often includes papers whose origin lies in the symposium.

Since that time the journal has grown to include most topics associated with vibration and was accepted into the Science Citation Index. In 2000, I became Editor-in-Chief and gradually removed the editorial board in favor of an associate editor system used by most society-funded journals. Each paper is then assigned to an associate editor familiar with the technical topic of the paper who is able to select reviewers closer to the paper's topic. This has streamlined the review process and put submitted manuscripts in the hands of expert reviewers. As a result our time to first decision has decreased substantially. The journal continues to grow and has a healthy mix of shock and vibration results. Reviewers (anonymous) are chosen from the author base in the broader shock and vibration community and an attempt is made to locate reviewers who have expertise in the subtopic of the submitted manuscript.

In the past, we have not published review articles. This year we plan to consider review articles as a regular feature. We also publish book reviews and occasionally have special issues devoted to specific topics or as the result of special symposiums.

On a sad note, the journal's inspiration and founder, Prof. Walter D. Pilkey, passed away this summer. Walter Pilkey (1936–2007) was the Morse Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Virginia. He was the founding director of the Automobile Safety Laboratory (now the Center for Applied Biomechanics) at the University of Virginia. During his long and distinguished career, he was editor-in-chief of five engineering journals, some of which he initiated. He edited or authored 30 books, and he published hundreds of technical papers. His research areas were very broad; they included crash safety for cars, planes and trains, and studies of airbags, helmets and seats as instruments to mitigate injuries. Among his many accomplishments, he developed mathematical equations that were used for missile silo hardening, and developed software used in the design of the Ford Taurus frame. Dr. Pilkey was an early developer and leader in the field of computational mechanics. His initial work was classically based mechanics research and as it developed, he became increasingly more applied and practical. He enjoyed collaborating with others, ranging from his own family to a large base of colleagues, both locally and internationally. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a Fellow of ASME.

Walt was a life long contributor and leader in the shock and vibration community. All will miss him.

Daniel J. Inman
Editor-in-Chief