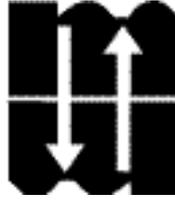


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THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR THE INTERACTION OF
MECHANICS AND MATHEMATICS

ISIMM

To all members
of ISIMM

Prof. Mario Pitteri
President

Prof. Adriano Montanaro
Secretary/Treasurer

October 15th, 2007

Newsletter 4, 2007

Dear colleagues, members of ISIMM, a few more pieces of information.

1. STAMM XVI, 2008

The conference will take place in Levico Terme (IT), from September 22 to September 25, 2008.

Scientific Committee:

P. Colli (Pavia)

I. Müller (Berlin)

A. Visintin (Trento)

Sponsored by

MUR - PRIN Project 'Free Boundary Problems, Phase Transitions and Models of Hysteresis'

Università degli Studi di Trento

CIRM (Centro Internazionale per la Ricerca Matematica)

Invited Speakers

H.-D. Alber (Darmstadt)

G. Allaire (Paris)

G. Bertotti (INRIM - Turin)

A. Fasano (Florence)

G. Kremer (Curitiba)

A. Mikelić (Lyon)

R. Monneau (Champs sur Marne)

G. Mulone (Catania)

M. Plapp (Paris)

B. Piccoli (IAC - Rome)
E. Presutti (Rome)
M. Pulvirenti (Rome)
T. Ruggeri (Bologna)
W.-A. Yong (Beijing)

Scientific program

The program of the workshop consists of invited lectures, short communications, and posters. It will be made available on the web at due time.

Consistently with the aims of ISIMM, mathematical modelling will be at the focus.

The formulation and analysis of problems issued from physics, engineering and other disciplines will be welcome.

We encourage participants to submit abstracts. A (necessarily restricted) number of 15' communications will be selected among all submitted abstracts.

Registration

As there is a restriction on the number of participants, we invite you to register by **May 31, 2008**

The selection will be made by registration date only.

Accepted participants will be notified by e-mail by June 15, 2008.

Please note that a registration fee of 100.00 euro is foreseen.

Web page:

<http://mate.unipv.it/pier/stamm08.html>

2. New Elections

We remind you of the deadline of October 31, 2007 for your vote to be valid.

3. Joint IUTAM-ISIMM Symposium

The IUTAM General Assembly has approved the joint IUTAM-ISIMM Symposium

Mathematical Modeling and Physical Instances of Granular Flows

coded GA.06-05 (=F/S.2) and introduced in the IUTAM calendar at

<http://www.iutam.net/iutam/Events/index.php/1/2009>

The Symposium will take place in Reggio Calabria, Italy, in 2009. The members of the Scientific Committee are

Joe Goddard (Chairman), Gianfranco Capriz, Carlo Cercignani (IUTAM Representative), Robert Connelly, Jim Jenkins, Ioannis Vardoulakis, Krzysztof Wilmanski.

The local organization is headed by

Prof. Pasquale Giovine,

Department of Mechanics and Materials,

Faculty of Engineering - "Mediterranean" University of Reggio Calabria,

Via Graziella, 1 - Locality Feo di Vito

I-89060 Reggio Calabria - Italy

Phone: +39(0965)875.253 - (Home 331.280)

Fax: +39(0965)875.201 - (Home 310.084)
 E-mail: giovine@unirc.it - (giovine@mail.dm.unipi.it)
 More details will be published as soon as possible

4. New Members

After the last Newsletter was sent, the following candidates for membership have been proposed and approved by the Executive Committee .

Ivan I. Kosenko (Moscow State University of Service)	Sponsor	H. Troger (TU Wien)
	Seconded by	R. Segev (Ben Gurion University)
		J.J. Slawianowski (IPPT, Warsaw)
Guglielmo Rubinacci (Università di Napoli)	Sponsor	A. Visintin (Trento)
	Seconded by	P. Colli (Pavia)
		A. Miranville (Poitiers)
Claudio Serpico (Università di Napoli)	Sponsor	A. Visintin (Trento)
	Seconded by	P. Colli (Pavia)
		A. Miranville (Poitiers)
Ciro Visone (Università del Sannio, Benevento)	Sponsor	A. Visintin (Trento)
	Seconded by	P. Colli (Pavia)
		A. Miranville (Poitiers)

We welcome these new members into ISIMM.

The list of members and their addresses is being continuously updated and is part of the **ISIMM homepage**

<http://isimm.dmsa.unipd.it/>

The list still contains outdated e-mail addresses, a number of which is appended; please, have a look and, if you know the current address and e-mail of any of the members listed, please notify the President or the Secretary. Also, some members do not appear to have an e-mail address, hence will not receive any Newsletter. Anyone who is in contact with such a member is kindly asked, if he thinks it desirable, to print a copy of this and the coming Newsletters and give it to him/her.

5. Members deceased

With great regret we have learned that our esteemed member

Professor George Herrmann (Stanford)

has passed away earlier this year. A few lines remembering him are appended.

We are not always sure that we have all information about our members. We apologize for errors and omissions and welcome any update.

6. Finances

At present the Society holds three bank accounts:

1. Girobank, Bootle, Merseyside, U.K.; no. 12.161.5308
2. Wilmington Trust Co, Newark, Del., USA; no. 2173-6996, entitled to: Wolfgang Wendland, G C Hsiao, 54 S Fawn Dr, Newark, DE 19711-1545
3. Banca Antonveneta, Ag. Belzoni, via Belzoni 14/16, I-35131 Padova; account no. 1420W, CIN L, ABI 5040, CAB 12120, SWIFT ANTB IT 2P (for transfers within UE: IBAN code IT38L050401212000000001420W) entitled to: Pitteri M., Montanaro A.

While the Society does not levy a membership fee, members are encouraged to pay a voluntary contribution of approximately US \$25. This will help to cover necessary expenses or exceptional initiatives, like another proposal of the ISIMM award. Payments should be sent to the account most convenient for the contributor.

Mario Pitteri and Adriano Montanaro

**Personal thoughts on George Herrmann
by Charles Steele (Stanford University)**

George Herrmann was born in Moscow on April 19, 1921, and moved to Switzerland at the age of 12. He attended the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1945 and a doctorate in 1949, both in civil engineering. After a year as a postdoctoral fellow at École Polytechnique in Canada, he became an associate professor of civil engineering at Columbia University in 1951 and then a professor at Northwestern University in 1962 before coming to Stanford in 1970. He retired in 1984, but maintained much the same life with travel and research activity. Recently, he was learning Spanish even though he was fluent in English, German, French, Russian, Italian and Portuguese. He died suddenly while accompanying a friend in a Zurich train station on January 7, 2007.

Some Awards:

- 1980 ASCE Theodore von Karman Medal
- 1981 elected to National Academy of Engineering
- 1989 American Academy of Mechanics Outstanding Service Award
- 1990 ASME Honory Member

The citation that George Herrmann received from the National Academy of Engineering is:

"Major contributor to administration, publication, research and teaching of applied and structural mechanics; has particularly stimulated students and younger colleagues."

That is to the point. A few of the prominent people who spent formative time working with George include:

Dusan Krajcinovic, Jan Achenbach, CT Sun, Leon Keer, Terry Delph, Sia Nemat-Nasser, Toby Hayes, Leon Keer, Tim Kennedy, Tom Ting, Jim Colton, Hoijat Adeli, Ben Freund, Gary Beaupre, Caesar Levi, Gene Pak, Paul Barbone, and Dewey Hodges.

Now I read on the blog page iMechanica that the popular topics for the respondees, I presume mostly young people, are:

research papers 23%

lecture notes 27%

forum discussions 33%

biographical sketches 1%

So hearing about the life of an individual is not as interesting these days as discussion on the merits of FEAP compared to ABAQUS. However, the individual does matter, and I am sure that the individuals who have worked with George all consider the experience as a positive stimulation for their future development.

My own acquaintance with George Hermann came when I discovered his papers on wave propagation in cylindrical shells written around 1960. These remain today key references for the problem that was and remains of considerable interest in a variety of practical areas, including ships, aircraft and getting the correct clink when toasting with wine glasses. At that time he and his coworkers made great progress on the interesting problem of the fire hose. Why does it take several big, strong firemen to hold the end of a hose? Well, if they let go, we have the instability of the nonconservative follower force problem, which means that the hose whips around with violent oscillations, destroying equipment and people in the vicinity.

Another practical problem concerned clean energy. In power plants they clean the fly ash from the exhaust with electrostatic precipitators, which are big plates of metal. But every so often the plates must be cleaned. This is done by banging the plates, basically with a big hammer. However, this is not efficient, since much of the fly ash is released into the flow. George and collaborators did the theory and came up with a better means of banging the plates, so little of the fly ash is released into the flow. I thought that it was really good work, and that our group would be able to live well on the spillover from the royalties that would flow in from the power companies. However, little more was said after the end of the project. Most likely, it is a typical case in that a good workable idea is ignored because of the inertia against any change. However, it is sometimes the case that the good ideas are eventually put into practice.

In the past twenty years, George Hermann has focussed on the basic conservation laws and the truly innovative "Mechanics in Material Space", which is the title of the 2000 book coauthored with Rheinold Kinzler. I make no pretense of understanding this subject. A number of times I have followed every step of his presentation; then suddenly we have the simple solution for a difficult problem of crack and damage analysis. It is like magic.

George Herrmann was a good friend of Robert Maxwell, who at one time was considered the most wealthy man in England. In 1960 Maxwell realized that technical publishing was going to be a big business and organized Pergammon Press. George was the founder of IJSS, one of the many "International Journal of ..." initiated by Maxwell at that time. Subsequently in 1990, in extending his empire, Maxwell sold Pergammon to Elsevier. However, Elsevier makes Maxwell seem to be a most reasonable man. Finally responding the anguish of the librarians, the Board of Editors and I resigned from IJSS and established a low cost alternative journal (JoMMS). It was with trepidation that I informed George that we were abandoning his creation. However, George was a step ahead of us, with a full understanding of the library situation, and has supported the new journal strongly as "Senior Consulting Editor".

My wife and I visited him in Davos shortly after his book was finished. He was as excited about the book as a child with a new bicycle. So he was a remarkable man with an enthusiastic, creative spirit till the end.