



Elevator U

Takes Purdue by Storm

by Ricia S. Hendrick

Tornadoes and thunderstorms ripped through the entire Midwest just days before the conference began. In fact, those attendees, such as your reporter, who arrived on campus early for the annual board meeting, experienced turbulent weather during the drive up from the Indianapolis airport. The weather eventually settled and, for the most part, played fair for the rest of the conference week.

The members of Elevator U an association consisting of university facility managers, consultants, suppliers and others, met on the beautiful campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, June 8-10. This group has grown in size and depth since this reporter first visited at their Atlanta conference several years ago. Attendance this year totaled 121 people, with 44 exhibitor booths represented.

Many participants stayed in the hotel at the Student Union and all meetings were held in the connecting buildings. It was a perfect setting for the three days of intense educational sessions, with the suppliers booths set up one story down. Arriving early also allowed your reporter to wander the campus and relive “college days.”

Continued



Board meeting

Events

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Continued

Meanwhile our Brad O'Guynn and the Elevator U board met to discuss the group's future options. The majority of the discussion during the board meeting focused on tying up loose ends for the conference itself, old business and the upcoming open positions for president, vice president, treasurer and directors. The annual board meetings are always an open forum, and anyone who is attending the conference is welcome to take part.

The first Elevator U conference I went to had many smaller classes with concurrent sessions. This year, the participants filled one large room so every speaker was heard by all. Every session evoked questions from the audience and strong participation.

The first day of the conference began with an early morning registration, during which photos were taken of each participant. These photos of active members and supporters will be posted on the Elevator U website. Jim Anicich, president of Elevator U, then opened the conference by announcing that Jeff Miller was being made an honorary member, the first in the association's history.

This presentation was followed immediately by the first education session: Bryan Hines, with Lerch Bates, Inc., discussing *Sustainable Design in Campus Buildings*. He pointed out that while sustainable buildings cost 20% more to build, they cost at least 14% less to operate. Elevators can contribute to the efficiency of the building through regenerative drives, stand-by solutions, destination control and permanent-magnet hoisting.

Dick Gregory, with Vertex Elevator Consultants, spoke next on *Modernization, a Team Effort*, noting how the consultant must act as an advisor to the building owner, the elevator contractor and the inspector. Hines joined Gregory in an impromptu roundtable discussion on modernizations for universities and the difficulty in determining energy savings in new equipment.

The next hour was a signature session for the Elevator U group – "vendormercials." These unique 5-15-minute presentations are provided by the vendors, who mostly provide clever and witty "live" commercials for their products and/or services. First, Jed Shapiro came up for Elevator Controls Corp. In a TV-style game show routine, he threw dollar bills at anyone in the audience who could give answers about the company's new Pixel system. Next up was Ed Mathis of Mathis Electronics dressed as a Frenchman, complete with a Dali-like mustache. He, too, asked questions about his company's electronics and gave out prizes.

Minnesota Elevator, Inc., provided Pat Tobin and Jon Kuhns for their commercial on submersible pumps and the famous "Bully-Pully." Gabriel Michael of Smartrise promised humor next year, but this year gave the "straight facts" about the company's 24/7 tech support and open market equipment. Man-D-Tech Inc. did a cute routine with three guys (one representing Kelvin light bulbs, one representing LED lights and one as an instructor) on energy savings and brightness in LED lights. John Rearick of CodeDataPlates.com, Ed Jaskowak and Don Ross next did a skit about a blind inspector and all the information that needs to be on the elevator's code data plates.

Back in the spotlight was Shapiro, this time for Lift Solutions Inc.. He presented a PowerPoint game show about the difference between regular and LED lighting. Last, but not least, was Mark "Crazy" Ortman with Ortman Drilling Inc., who discussed dry holes and old jacks.

Following lunch in an adjoining room, the education program continued with Don Vollrath of Magnetek discussing *Green Elevators and Meeting LEED Standards*. He noted that elevators have a small energy footprint – less than 10% of operating energy – however, rebates from utility companies are possible after retrofits. Regular



For more coverage of the Elevator U conference, visit www.elevator-world.com and click on the Online Extra icon.



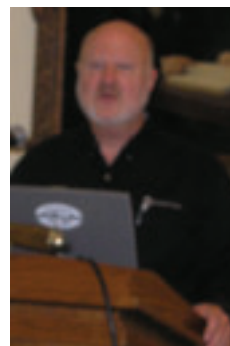
Jim Anicich



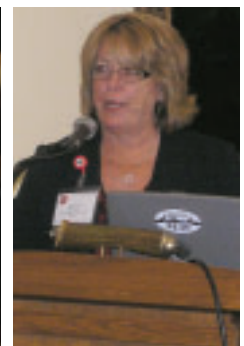
Bryan Hines



Dick Gregory



Don Vollrath



Barbara Allen

machines are 75% efficient, he said, while machine-room-less (MRL) units are closer to 92% efficient.

Barbara Allen of the Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation (EESF) completed the afternoon with the introduction of a new safety program called "Rise Up Safe Rider." The new program is for college and university students and was developed in a competition between several schools. Ross of DH Ross Elevator Inspectors (formerly of Pennsylvania State University) has been working with the Foundation to develop a program since 2007. Tom Sybert was heavily involved as well. Seven programs were reviewed and parts of all were incorporated into posters, brochures and residence hall program guides. This program will be piloted in several universities this fall and available to all

on both Elevator U's and EESF's websites.

The evening activities found everyone on buses to an agricultural and woodland facility of Purdue in the rolling farmlands. Barbecue, of every variety, greeted us, and there was ample beer and wine to accompany it. Entertainment was provided by

ComedySportz®, a troupe of five who did pantomime as a team sport. They involved the audience in many ways – finally snaring Mark Menke and Gregory to join in. The once-again threatening weather held off and many lingered outside afterwards for a bonfire and a nightcap.

On Wednesday, Gregory provided a full-day seminar on *Code Updates* for .8 continuing education units (CEUs). This full, 65-member class was held separate from the regular programming for Elevator U attendees, which began with Emery Thran of Motion Control Engineering speaking on *Future Serviceability Options for Today's MRL Elevators*. Thran noted that MRL elevators have taken some of the market from hydraulic systems in the 100-150 fpm and DC gearless in the 150-500 fpm ranges. He also discussed AC permanent-magnet motors and their high efficiency.

Second on the program was your reporter with a presentation titled "What's New in the 2010 Field Employees' Safety Handbook." This book, published only a few months prior to the conference, contains many new safety procedures for the mechanic or inspector.

Following lunch, the vendor exhibition opened for several hours. The afternoon saw a very different type of "roundtable" event. There were about eight tables in one room packed with eager participants all discussing the same subject – "Are You Getting What You Pay For?" –

Continued

Shapiro



Mathis





Elevator U Exhibitors

Takes Purdue by Storm





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Continued

a great topic for the many there who manage their own elevator maintenance contracts but are not the owner of the building. The book *Elevator and Escalator Maintenance for Building Owners*, published by Elevator World, Inc., was used as a starting point to develop a checklist for working between the owners and those who manage the elevator contracts.

The Vendor's Exposition reopened in the late afternoon for four hours. More than 44 vendors had primarily tabletop displays. Each vendor brought an item to donate



Evening activities



Officers

to the EESF's Silent Auction. The items stayed in the individual booths, allowing participants to tour every booth, and many went back several times to change their bids. After several hours, the last bids were made, and the silent auction was over. Garmin and Nuvi global positioning systems were popular, as were iPods, drills and even a generator. The most unusual items were Cuban cigars, Crown Royal and scented candles. It was a great night for the vendors, as every booth got good traffic, and an equally good night for EESF, which netted more than US\$4,000 between the auction and a 50/50 ticket raffle. An open bar and dinner served within the same area made the exposition experience even better.

Anicich opened the final morning of the conference with some business items. New by-law amendments were proposed and unanimously voted in by the general membership. The election of officers and board positions for next year also took place. Anicich from Arizona State University was elected president for another term, and Brad O'Guynn from EW continued as secretary. Martin Culp from University of Maryland became vice president and Steve Pydynowski from Illinois State University became treasurer. Sybert remains a director, while Wayne Koepke (Wirerope Works, Inc.) and Bruce Lowry of the University of Manitoba became new directors. Remaining on the board is Immediate Past President Jaskowak. Glenn Duncan (Parts Specialists, Inc.) received the John Blatt Award for his untiring help with the conference through the years.

Mark Duckworth, R&D engineer with GAL Manufacturing, led off the final day by speaking on *Life Cycling* as it relates to product selection. He spoke about selecting controllers based on their life-cycle costs rather than the upfront price – using those that are low maintenance, non-proprietary, with reduced wiring, good documentation and simple instructions in plain English.

Next up was Daniel Mettlor of Bucher Hydraulics who spoke about *Energy Savings available with Hydraulics*.



Roundtable discussions

China, he said, has almost no hydraulic systems because the Chinese usually walk up five-to-six floors. Mettlor noted that the U.S. is the largest hydraulic market in the world, but very little has changed since the 1950s. Now there is a huge energy saving available by modernizing hydraulic systems with electronic valves and in some cases variable-voltage variable-frequency drives. To change out the electronic valve is a one-half-day job and saves 30% in energy.

Following lunch, the final speaker was Mark Dietz with Kings III, who spoke on *Emergency Communications and Code Compliance*. Dietz explained that the simplest procedure for phones in elevators is using one line – a dedicated line – however, few do that. Line sharing, he said, is more complicated, but a consolidator that can answer multiple phones will help. Who answers the phone was another issue he discussed, noting that Kings III offers a back-up phone line answered anytime. A new product offered by the company, he added, was remote monitoring that would compete with the OEMs.

Thus, the Elevator U 2010 Educational Conference came to an end. The planning committee headed by Terri Emmons of the University of Michigan deserves enormous credit for putting together an event high on education, good food and fun. Next year, the Elevator U Education Conference will be held at Pennsylvania State University in early June.



The Purdue campus



Emery Thrane



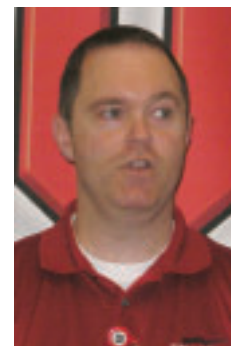
Glenn Duncan



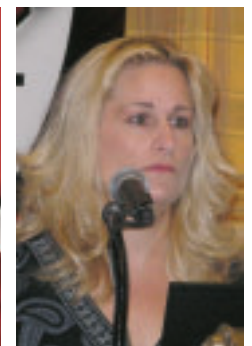
Mark Duckworth



Daniel Mettlor



Mark Dietz



Terri Emmons