

PROFILE

Jim Sorokes



DRESSER-RAND'S "RENAISSANCE MAN" PROMOTES LIFELONG LEARNING

Editor's Note: Jim Sorokes is a principal development engineer at Dresser-Rand in Olean, New York, USA. During his 30 years with the company, he has designed high-performance, radial turbomachinery and held various supervisory and management positions.

Whether working on his next technical article, testing new aerodynamic designs, pulling weeds in his garden, or shooting hoops, Jim Sorokes seems perfectly at home. A well-rounded individual who brings real life interests and experiences to the job, Jim enjoys working with others and lends new meaning to the concept of "lifelong learning."

When describing his most vivid memories of experiences at Dresser-Rand, the adage, "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime," is apropos. Jim has actively engaged in educating both clients and younger engineers at Dresser-Rand. He's taught several popular seminars and advanced courses on compressor aerodynamics, compressor aero-performance and compressor rotating stall. He's also published several practical papers that are invaluable

to helping end users understand complex design compromises that affect aerodynamics, rotordynamics and stress, and manufacturing.

"My best moments are spent mentoring others and seeing them get promoted to positions of increasing responsibility," Jim said.

During his long and distinguished career at Dresser-Rand, Jim's been responsible for the aerodynamic development, design, and analysis of centrifugal compressors. He's held supervisory and management positions in development engineering, aerothermodynamic design, and aero-performance engineering.

This year, Jim was elected to the level of Fellow in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). As described on the ASME Web site, it is "the highest elected grade of membership within ASME, the attainment of which recognizes exceptional engineering achievements and contributions to the engineering profession."

Jim earned this honor because of his diligence, dedication, and work that includes all aspects of centrifugal compressor aerodynamic design, stage rig testing, practical application of computational fluid dynamics, and the use of new design philosophies and techniques. He also provides training both within and outside Dresser-Rand, and authors technical papers on subjects such as low solidity diffusers, rib

diffusers, high Mach number impellers, and aero-mechanical excitation. Engineers from several energy-related companies wrote letters sponsoring Jim's election to the Fellow grade – evidence that his accomplishments are recognized and respected throughout the turbomachinery community.

As supervisor of aerodynamic engineering, Jim was the technical leader in the aerodynamic design of Dresser-Rand's DATUM® compressor line, and served as a principal aerodynamic consultant for the complete Dresser-Rand product line. He has also taught centrifugal compressor design and analysis in seminars, short courses, and tutorials.

Jim graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a B.S. in physics. He's a member of the ASME, the ASME IGTI Turbomachinery Committee, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the National Management Association. He's written more than 35 technical papers, holds two United States patents: Variable Vane Height Diffuser, U.S. Patent 4,932,835 (June 12, 1990); Position Validator Device, U.S. Patent 5,152,070 (October 6, 1992), and has two patents pending.

Jim lives in Olean, New York with his wife, Penny, and they have three children. He enjoys golf, basketball, fishing, photography, carpentry, gardening, playing his acoustic guitars, and writing. ■