

Capability and Computers — Service and Ceremony

The official designation of SWE's 1964 Achievement Award recipient is now Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, USNR (Ret). Her well publicized retirement aboard the USS Constitution this past August may have marked the end of her active duty with the US Navy (for the third time) but certainly not the end of her "championing of the continuing evolution of information systems" as news reports described her recent efforts. Three SWE members who were present for the retirement ceremony report on it and reflect on the character and extent of Hopper's impact on the world of machine computation.

Pre-ceremony refreshments were provided for the invited attendees at the Commandant's house which overlooks the quay and museums surrounding the USS Constitution at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Rear Admiral Hopper was there to chat with the many friends and relatives who had gathered for the occasion while they "enjoyed" some famous (strong) Navy coffee and light refreshments. Then, just before 11:00 AM, guests assembled on board for the ceremony. The ship's Commandant, Joseph Brown, in traditional 1812 officer's uniform, welcomed the official party responding to each request for "permission to board?" with "permission granted" as the bosun's pipe announced each arrival. Following an invocation, the first presenter was Dr. Gwen Bell, president of the Computer Museum who added one more to the list of "firsts" achieved by Hopper — that of First Fellow of the Computer Museum — and presented her the badge of that office — a silicon chip on a ribbon.

The Director, Naval Data Automation Command, Kenton Hancock, compared Hopper's retire-



ment to the situation in which P.T. Barnum found himself when his human cannonball wanted to resign. Barnum's dilemma was where to find another person of the same "caliber." Hancock was confident, though, that Hopper would be back; there is precedent for that. He then introduced Navy Secretary, the Honorable John F. Lehman, Jr., who spoke of Hopper's feistiness and youth, noting that she personified leadership characteristics very well. The Secretary announced that, in order to retain access to her expertise after retirement, Hopper had been appointed Special Consultant to the Secretary of the Navy. He also presented her with the Department of Defense' highest award — the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. The official retirement order (effective September 1, 1986) was then read and the document presented to her.

Commandant Brown presented Hopper with 43 roses, one for each year of her Navy service.

Rear Admiral Hopper took her turn at the podium to thank the Secretary, to summarize her philosophy of leadership and to entertain attendees with her well-known witticisms. She reminded guests that you could not "manage Marines into battle — you have to *lead* them" since you may *manage* things but you must *lead* people. She noted that the USS Constitution, commissioned by George Washington in 1788 was an appropriate site for this event since she was the last WW II WAVE to leave active duty in the Navy and, finally, that she was very proud to have served her country in this way. The official party departed to the tune of Auld Lang Syne being piped down the gangway in order until it was Hopper's turn. The crew in tradi-

tional 1812 uniforms were in the rigging and gave her three rousing cheers from the yardarms.

A post ceremony reception was the occasion for presenting more honors and gifts to the Admiral. SWE's gift, which noted that she might find it useful in her next career, was a marble SWE paperweight. A ceremonial cake decorated with a picture of the USS Constitution was given the first cut by Rear Admiral Hopper, using Commandant Brown's dress sword. The beautiful clear sunny weather was almost as though present "on command" and certainly added to the occasion.

Evelyn Murray, SWE past president, recalls escorting Hopper when she came to speak at the 1986 SWE Convention in Hartford. The trip from the airport was an oppor-

tunity for Murray to determine that the two of them did, indeed, have connections way back in the Murray clan in Scotland. She was concerned on the return trip to the airport that Hopper insisted she could take care of herself but decided when she noted that many of the other travelers recognized, obviously admired and insisted on helping Rear Admiral Hopper that she could safely leave her to such support.

Sarah Simon, New England Engineering Societies president and SWE member, notes that her present stature in the societies stems, in part, from the fact that she invited Rear Admiral Grace Hopper to be the guest speaker for the group. Her presentation was a typical Hopper success and her (Simon's) stock rose accordingly.

SWE president BK Krenzer says it was at the second International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists in Cambridge England that she first met Commander Grace Hopper, USNR (Ret); that was her first retirement from the Navy. Midway through the sessions, held on the fourth of July, "we were the only two out of 30 some US women attendees" who turned out in red, white and blue. Hopper was incensed that so few had demonstrated their patriotism in some manner, especially in England. One attendee redeemed herself by bringing some fireworks which were set off in the common at one of the colleges. Even in those days, it seems Hopper was an outspoken proponent of her country and her chosen field — computers.

Diana Essock

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some of the problems of a two-career marriage, as Diana's husband, Tom, works for TRW. Because he was in a different field, manufacturing equipment, they did not really step on each others toes careerwise. However, Diana remarks, "When I had to do technical consultation at his plant, I felt a little bit more pressure to perform than usual. Fortunately, it has been in fields in which I feel comfortable."

Home life is still rather hectic for Diana and Tom as they both travel. They try to get away together occasionally and make time for each other as often as possible. Eventually, they want to plan time for a family, and Diana will continue working regardless of the type of maternity policy available.

Working for a large company can have its problems, as Diana already found out with the threat of her division being sold. Another disadvantage is having to compete with a large number of people for both resources and opportunities within the company. However, one does have the opportunity to work on a wide range of topics and to have enough resources readily available most of the time.

Despite her tight schedule, Diana has found time to be involved in

several professional organizations. She has held the offices of president, vice-president, and section representative of SWE's Northeast Ohio Section, and has been involved in the National Career Guidance Committee. Currently she is the counselor for the Case Western Reserve University SWE Student Section. She also is secretary of the American Society for Metals' Cleveland Chapter, as well as a member of this chapter's Executive Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers' Nontraditional Machining Committee and has given a presentation on this subject, as well as several others on fiber-reinforced superalloys at various conferences.

What advice does Diana have for those interested in metallurgy or engineering in general. She cautions future metallurgists that the basic metals industry is in a slump so it is important to not become too limited in one's experience.

To potential engineers, Diana Essock says: "I believe that the individual has to do a bit of soul searching and determine how interested she is in science and talk to as many people as possible in the field. If she has already determined that engineering is the way that she wants to go, then I'd encourage her to go after it wholeheartedly. Engineering is not only interesting as a profession, but the training gives you a

unique outlook on the world. With technology playing an ever increasing part of our day to day lives, engineering insight can prove valuable in a wide range of fields and professions."

Laurel Sheppard is associate editor of Advanced Materials & Processes, published by the American Society for Metals. A member of SWE's Editorial Board, she was responsible for coordinating the articles for this issue.

Resnik Medal

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presentation case, certificate, and selection committee expenses. This is estimated to be \$4,500 and an additional \$500 is needed to provide travel expenses for a first recipient. Patron, donor, sponsor and contributing subscriptions are being sought from SWE members, both corporate and individual. Thus, a Patron contribution of \$5,000 would provide implementing funding. \$500 and up would be a Donor contribution and \$100 - \$500, a sponsor subscription. Contributing subscriptions (under \$100) are also welcome. Patrons and donors will be listed on a plaque at SWE Headquarters and in brochures published about the recipients.